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WITCHBLADE®

WITCHBLADE®

created by **Marc Silvestri**, **David Wohl**, **Brian Haberlin** & **Michael Turner**

New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's life was forever fractured by her father's murder. Cold, cunning, and hellbent on revenge, Sara now stalks a vicious criminal cabal beneath the city. During a brutal warehouse massacre, Sara bonded with the Witchblade, an ancient weapon that transformed her into something wild, magnificent, and beyond her darkest imaginings.

Previously...New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's dive into the world of the supernatural began with the search into the cover-up that destroyed her father. Along the way, she bonded with an ancient weapon known as the Witchblade, which, following recent events, has gone through a new transformation, bound by the powers of darkness and light, becoming something new that hangs in the balance. Following the tragic end to the Grinteeth vigilante, Sara picked up the pieces and wandered into her local watering hole, and met an enigmatic green-haired woman. Sara woke up the next morning, stirred by memories of the night before, only to discover a dead body in her bed, and her green-haired acquaintance gone without a trace. ***Meanwhile***...Several murders tied to advanced hacked smartlocks led Sara back to the manufacturer, A.S.I. Industries. There, a connection to the case that led to Sara's partner, Jake McCarthy, leaving California came to light. After both Sara and Jake separately infiltrated A.S.I. Industries they were attacked by drones and eventually Aphrodite IX herself, who seemed to be caught in a logic loop. Sara tried to break Aphrodite out of it, but in the end, Sara was brought to her knees and at Aphrodite's mercy.

"Oblivion"

Written by **Marguerite Bennett**
Line art by **Giuseppe Cafaro**
Colors by **Arif**, **Ifansyah Noor**, **Felix Hidayat**, and **Sakti Yuwono** for **Prianto & Co.**
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Cover B, C (Virgin), D (Line), and Top Cow Store Spot Foil Exclusive:
Camilla d'Errico and **Eva Toker**

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APHRODITE HAS ME DEAD TO RIGHTS.

BRUISED, WHEEZING...

AND AT THE SOUND OF MY GASP...

A FLICKER OF MEMORY.

SHE REMEMBERS SOMETHING.

SHE *REMEMBERS*...

...?

JAKE!

AAAAAAAH!

"I REMEMBER YOU."

IF THE COMPUTERS KEEP SHORTING APHRODITE...

...SHE'LL KEEP COMING BACK.

THEY SAY THE ONLY WAY...

...TO WIN AT ROULETTE...

...IS TO STEAL FROM THE TABLE...

...WHILE THE DEALERS AREN'T LOOKING.

HRRRRROOOOOOOM

...APHRODITE?

MISSION?

WHAT'S MY MISSION?

YOUR MISSION IS TO COME WITH US AND KEEP QUIET.

MISSION ACCEPTED.

I'VE ALERTED **FIRE AND RESCUE** FROM EVERY SURROUNDING PRECINCT--

WITCHBLADE SAYS--ERR, **HEAT SENSORS** SAID NO ONE WAS LEFT IN THE BUILDING BUT THOSE **THINGS**--

"THOSE" THINGS? YOU MEAN LIKE **THIS** BRIGHT GREEN THING **RIGHT HERE?!**

PEZZINI!

YOU WANT, WHAT, A KILLING MACHINE WITH A SUPERCOMPUTER FOR A BRAIN FOR A PET?!

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, KEEP HER IN A SHOEBOX UNDER YOUR BED? GET HER A SINGLE LEAF TO MIMIC HER "NATURAL HABITAT"?

SARA.

DIDN'T YOU JUST GO, AFTER HOURS, TO THE PRIVATE OFFICE OF A BILLIONAIRE CEO I KNOW YOU AT LEAST ***SUSPECT*** OF MURDER--

JUST TO TELL HIM ROBOTS ARE FRICKIN' ***DANGEROUS?!***

TO SAY NOTHING ABOUT WHAT KINDA HIGH-TECH EXPERIMENTAL ARMOR YOU GOT ON UNDER YOUR CLOTHES--

WHAT'S UNDER MY CLOTHES AIN'T NONE OF YOUR CONCERN, "PARTNER."

I MAY NOT HAVE BEEN A MILITARY BRAT, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU BROUGHT THOSE HOME FROM ***SOG***--

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE HALF AS CUTE AS THE REST OF THE GIRLIES ON THIS DAMN ISLAND, McCARTHY.

I KNOW YOU WANT TO PROTECT THAT GIRL.

YOU WOULDN'T BE A DETECTIVE IF YOU DIDN'T.

SARA... IS SHE REALLY A GIRL?

AND MOREOVER...

"WHERE THE HELL CAN WE EVEN TAKE HER?"

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY MOTHER.

MISSUS...

MISSUS MARYA?

SARA PEZZINI.

THE *AUDACITY* YOU MUST HAVE TO ENTER THIS HOUSE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD AFTER...

MISSUS MARYA... THERE'S A GIRL...

...AND I THINK SHE NEEDS *HELP.*

DOCUMENTED, UNDOCUMENTED, TRAFFICKED, RUNAWAY--

WE TAKE THEM ALL.

BUT I'M NOT SURE ANY OF THOSE APPLY TO YOU.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

APHRODITE IX.

I MEAN... I'M NOT TRYING TO BE RUDE, BUT SHE'S A ROBOT--

IS SHE EVEN A PERSON AT ALL?

ANYTHING THAT CAN SUFFER HAS A SOUL.

...

WHO WOULD BUILD A MACHINE THAT CAN SUFFER?

YOU KNOW THAT ANSWER, SARA PEZZINI.

A LIFE FOR A LIFE.

"YOU FAILED ANNA. YOU LET HER DIE.

"YOU WILL MAKE AMENDS BY PROTECTING THIS GIRL.

"MAY SHE BE YOUR REDEMPTION--

"OR YOUR PUNISHMENT.

"YOU TAKE CARE OF HER. AND MAYBE--

"--MAYBE--

"GOD WILL FORGIVE YOU."

THE APARTMENT OF SARA PEZZINI.

YOU KNOW APHRODITE'S CONNECTED TO THE SMARTLOCK DISAPPEARANCES.

STEPHAN STERN TOOK OVER AS CEO WHEN DR. ATTICUS OZKIN DIED "MYSTERIOUSLY," WHICH IS CIRCUM-STANTIAL.

IT'S A DECENT MOTIVE, BUT IT'S NOT BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT.

SARA...

I KNOW THAT MARYA LADY IS IMPORTANT TO YOU, BUT...

APHRODITE 9 IS LIKE AN AI CHATBOT. A XEROX.

I PUT IN A PIECE OF PAPER THAT READS "I'M SUFFERING" AND THEN ACT HORRIFIED WHEN THE MACHINE REGURGITATES IT BACK TO ME.

IT'S JUST PROGRAMMING. ***IT'S NOT REAL.***

YOU AND I ARE FLESH AND BLOOD--

WE ARE ***REAL.***

JAKE...

WE'RE LOSING THE ABILITY TO SEE OTHER PEOPLE AS HUMAN.

"SARA, I GET THE APPEAL OF THE ROBOT COMPANION, I DO."

"PERFECT FOR THE BURNED-OUT, SECRET-KEEPING LONER WHO CAN'T BE HONEST WITH ANYONE IN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES!"

"YOU GET EVERYTHING YOU WANT, ALL HER WANTS ARE YOUR WANTS, SHE COOKS, CLEANS, NEVER FIGHTS--I GET IT."

"BUT IF YOU'RE GIVEN THE ROBOT GIRLFRIEND, TELL ME--

"WHAT DO YOU DO FOR ***HER***?"

"PART OF BEING IN LOVE IS GIVING, SARA.

"SURRENDERING.

"HOW DO YOU MAKE ***HER*** HAPPY? HOW DO YOU HELP HER ACHIEVE ***HER*** DREAMS?"

"SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY, JAKE.

"HOW CONVENIENT THAT SHE WAS BUILT THAT WAY."

I PICKED HER UP IN A BAR.

I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WASN'T HUMAN.

AND I FEEL...

...***RESPONSIBLE.***

I GOTTA GO TO THE STATION. FIX SOME OF THIS UP.

YOU KEEP MY SECRETS, PEZZINI, AND I'LL KEEP YOURS.

I'M ***NOT*** A DIRTY COP.

NOT LIKE THAT, ANYWAY.

APHRODITE...

DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU WERE SENT TO KILL ME?

DAYS AND NIGHTS SHE STAYS HERE.

SHE LOOKS PUZZLED. I TELL HER THE STORY AS I UNDERSTAND IT.

THE ONLY THING I REMEMBER BEFORE TONIGHT IS ***YOU.***

WHY AM I ACTING THIS WAY?!

THIS IS SO STUPID, SO DANGEROUS-- ***SHE'S A KILLING MACHINE.***

I GET HER CLEANED UP.

I MAKE HER A BED, SORT OUT A CHANGE OF CLOTHES.

IT'S SO SOFT!

RRRIP

I EVEN DEFROST THE LAST ZITI MY NONA MADE ME, BEFORE WE STOPPED TALKING.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

THIS THING--NO, ***THIS THING*** HERE!

OH, WAIT--***THIS THING!***

BUT I DON'T FORGET THAT SHE IS AN ASSASSIN.

AN APEX PREDATOR.

SHE UNDERSTANDS THE BASICS OF THE WORLD.

TECHNOLOGY FALLS INTO HER HAND LIKE A RIPE APPLE.

SLAP

APHRODITE...

WHAT CAN YOU REMEMBER BEFORE WE RESCUED YOU?

I REMEMBER YOU.

THE MAGNETIC VIBRATIONS.

THROBBING, ACHING.

SHE CAN FEEL MY PULSE IN HER ARTIFICIAL HEART.

I CAN FEEL HER ARTIFICIAL HEARTBEAT IN THE WITCHBLADE.

NO, HONEY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

BUT I WANT--!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT. ***YOU'RE BRAND NEW.***

I'M A MONSTER.

BUT NOT THAT KIND OF MONSTER.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE.

HEY, JAKE.

SIRY SAYS YOU USED TO DRINK THIS STUFF BLACK AS PITCH.

THE BARISTA MADE ME PROMISE YOU WEREN'T PREDIABETIC WHEN I GAVE YOUR ORDER.

NO COFFEE FOR ME?

...

I'LL GET YOU YOUR OWN IN A MINUTE.

EVERYBODY NEEDS A LITTLE COMFORT SOMETIMES.

A LITTLE SUGAR ON THE SLY NEVER HURT ANYONE.

THE APARTMENT OF ROBERT KAMMER.

THANK CHRIST IN NEW YORK CITY, EVERYONE IS DRESSED LIKE THE MAIN CHARACTER OF THEIR OWN MOVIE.

NO ONE BATS AN EYE AT A GIRL WITH GREEN HAIR.

SO YOU'VE BEEN SENT ON THESE MISSIONS TO KILL PEOPLE, THEN GET CALLED BACK TO YOUR MAKER FOR A FACTORY RESET.

MEMORY WIPED, YOU'RE SENT AFTER YOUR NEXT KILL.

DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU WERE ASSIGNED ***ROBERT KAMMER?***

...I DON'T HAVE MEMORIES.

JUST... ***EMOTIONS.***

I KNOW IT FELT ***RIGHT*** TO KILL HIM.

A RED CIRCLE...

WHAT?

OH.

WHEN APHRODITE ATTACKED ME, SHE DREW A RED CIRCLE ON MY FACE--

CHRIST.

ALL THE VICS HAD THE SMART-LOCKS.

BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BET THAT'S NOT ALL THEY HAD IN COMMON?

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE!

"DECEIVER"

WITCHBLADE #21 Gallery • Cover A Process

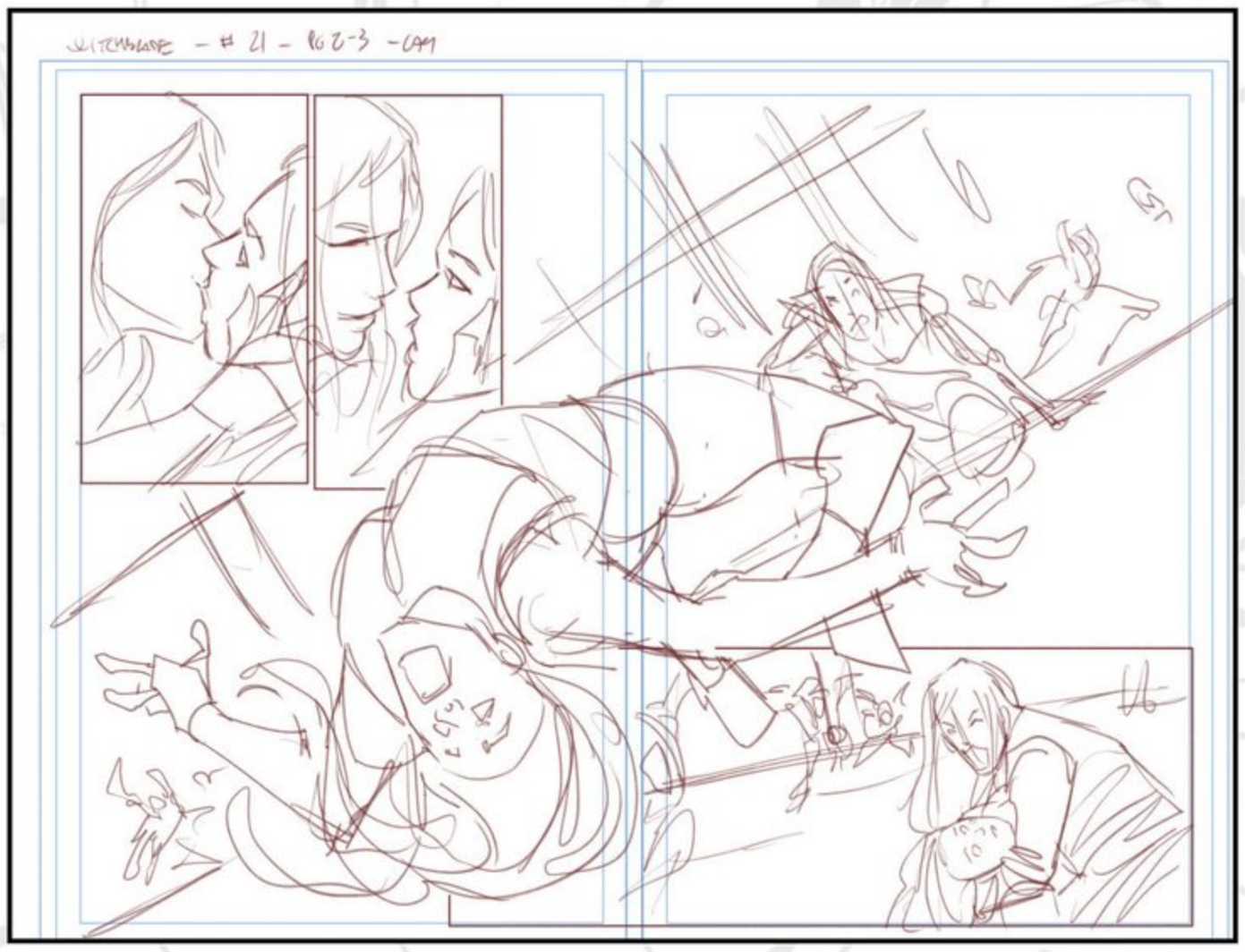
Witchblade #21, Cover A, process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**

WITCHBLADE #21 Gallery • Cover B Process

Witchblade #21, Cover B, C, D, and Top Cow Store Spot Foil Exclusive process from thumbnail, pencils to colors
Art by **Camilla d'Errico** and **Eva Toker**

WITCHBLADE®

#21 Gallery • Page Process



Witchblade #21, pages 2-3, process from thumbnails, line art, colors to letters

JAKE!
"I REMEMBER YOU."
AAAAAAH!!

FROM TOP COW IN MAY!

The Thing on the Doorstep #4 (of 5)
WRITER: Simon Birks
ARTIST: Willi Roberts
LETTERER: Rob Jones
32 pages · $3.99 · May 13

Witchblade #21
WRITER: Marguerite Bennett
ARTIST: Giuseppe Cafaro
COLORIST: Arif Prianto
LETTERER: Troy Peteri
32 pages · $3.99 · May 13

The Darkness [2025] #5
WRITER: Marc Silvestri
ARTIST: Agustin Padilla
COLORIST: Arif Prianto
LETTERER: Troy Peteri
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FROM TOP COW IN JUNE!

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ARTIST: Giuseppe Cafaro
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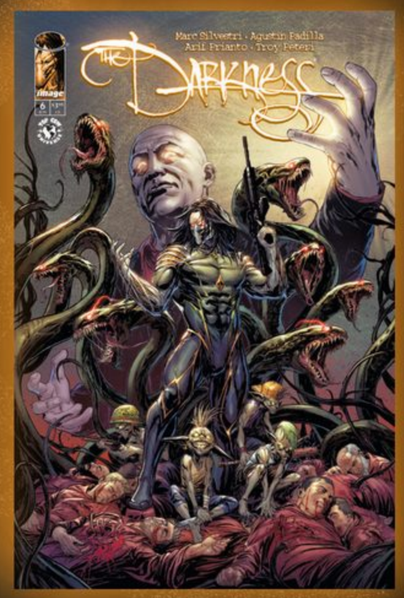

The Darkness [2025] #6
WRITER: Marc Silvestri
ARTIST: Agustin Padilla
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32 pages · $3.99 · June 17

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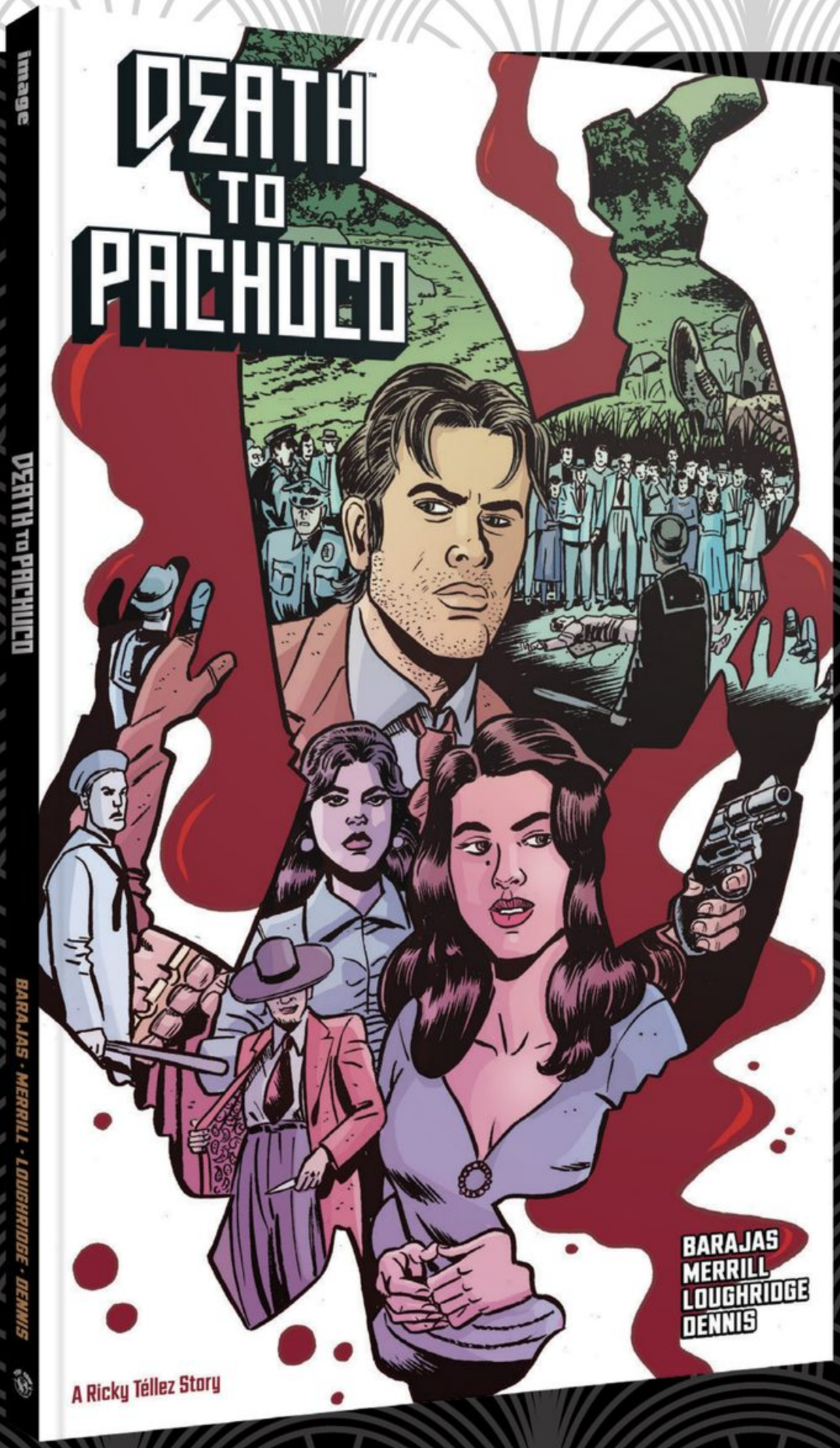
THE SYNDICATED TEAM OF HENRY BARAJAS (LA VOZ DE M.A.Y.O. TATA RAMBO) AND RACHEL MERRILL (IZZY N JEAN) UNCOVER A CHINO NOIR ROOTED IN THE SHAMEFUL PARTS OF LA'S HISTORY!



"Between the absurdly talented creative team and the exciting relevant subject matter, this is my most anticipated comic of the year!"
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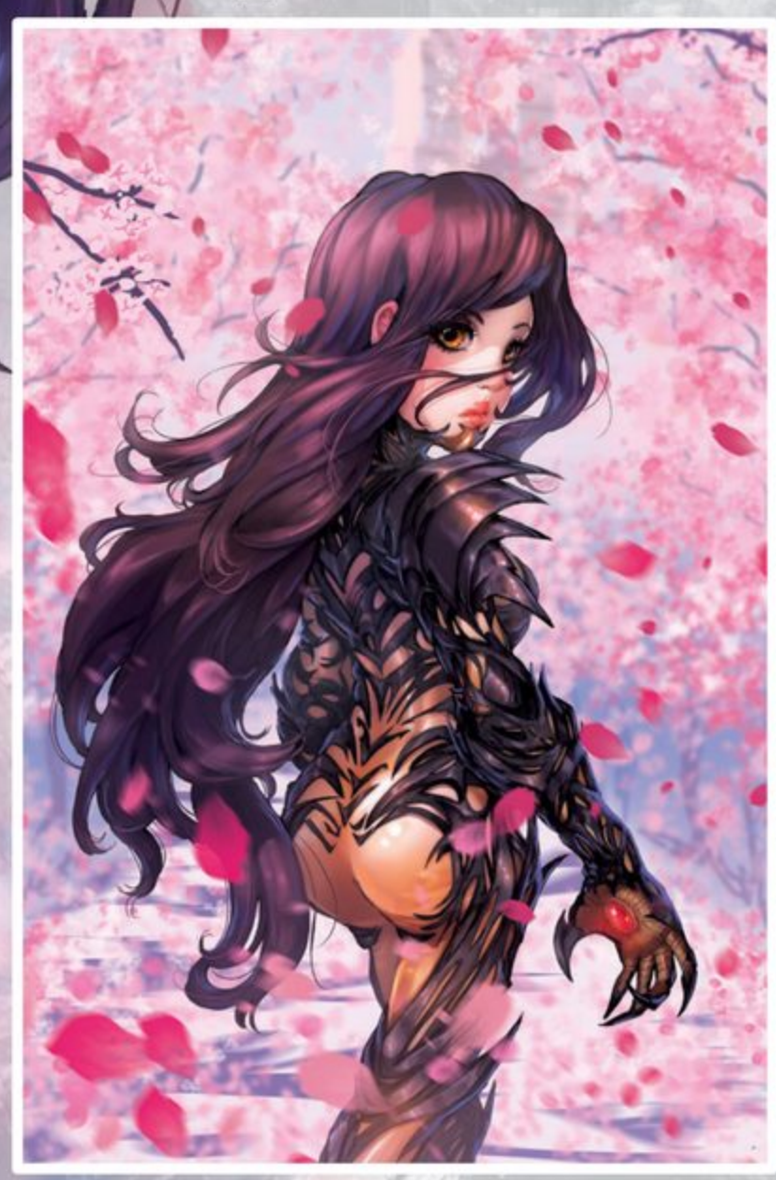

Witchblade #21
cover art by **Camilla d'Errico**
Available 5/13

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cover art by **Camilla d'Errico**
Available 5/20

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